CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method comprising:

2   receiving a packet from a first network device to a second network device,

3   wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first

4   network device and the second network device each having a version of a dynamic,

5   · intradomain, distributed, flat, single path, distance vector routing protocol, the packet

6   identifying the first network device's routing protocol version;

7   determining whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the

8   same as the second network device's routing protocol version; and

9   configuring the link such that the routing protocol versions of the first and

10   second network devices are the same.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the version of the routing protocol of

2   each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the method further

3   comprises detecting the first network device's routing protocol type, and determining

4   whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same as the second

5   network device's routing protocol type.

1   3. The method of claim 2 further comprising configuring the link such that the

2   routing protocol types of the first and second network devices are the same .

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1   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the routing protocol is Routing

2   Information Protocol (RIP).

1   5.   The method of claim 4 wherein the version of RIP is one of Version 1 or

2   Version 2.

1   6. The method of claim 5 wherein the version of the RIP of each network device

2   is one of a triggered type or a periodic type .

1   7.   The method of claim 5, further comprising configuring the link such that

2   the RIP versions of the first and second network devices are both Version 2.

1   8.   The method of claim 7 further comprising configuring the link such that

2   the RIP Version 2 on both of the first and second network devices is triggered.

1   9.   A method comprising:

2   configuring a link including a first network device and a second network

3   device, each network device including a dynamic, intradomain, distributed, flat, single

4   path, distance vector routing protocol having a version and a type, such that the routing

5   protocol versions of the first and second network devices are the same and the types of

6   the routing protocol versions are the same.

1   10.   The method of claim 9 wherein the routing protocol is Routing

2   Information Protocol (RIP).

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1   11.   The method of claim 10 wherein the version of the RIP is one of Version

2   1 or Version 2.

1   12.   The method of claim 11 wherein the version of the RIP of each network

2   device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type .

1   13.   The method of claim 11 further comprising configuring the link such that

2   the RIP on both of the first and second network devices is Version 2.

1   14.   The method of claim 13 further comprising configuring the link such that

2   the RIP Version 2 on both of the first and second network devices is triggered.

1   15.   An apparatus comprising a machine accessible medium containing

2   instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform

3   operations comprising:

4   receiving a packet from a first network device to a second network device,

5   wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first

6   network device and the second network device each having a version of a dynamic,

7   intradomain, distributed, flat, single path, distance vector routing protocol, the packet

8   identifying the first network device's routing protocol version,

9   determining whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the

10 same as the second network device's routing protocol version; and

11   configuring the link such that the routing protocol versions of the first and

12 second network devices are the same.

1   16.   The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the version of the routing protocol of

2   each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the method further

3   comprises detecting the first network device's routing protocol type, and determining

4   whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same as the second

5   network device's routing protocol type.

1   17.   The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising configuring the link such

2   that the routing protocol types of the first and second network devices are the same.

1   18.   The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the routing protocol is Routing

2   Information Protocol (RIP).

1   19.   The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the version of RIP is one of Version 1

2   or Version 2.

1   20.   The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the version of the RIP of each

2   network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type .

1   21.   An apparatus comprising a machine accessible medium containing

2   instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform

3   operations comprising:

4   configuring a link including a first network device and a second network

5   device, each network device including a dynamic, intradomain, distributed, flat, single

6   path, distance vector routing protocol having a version and a type, such that the routing

7   protocol versions of the first and second network devices are the same and the types of

8   the routing protocol versions are the same.

1   22.   The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the routing protocol is Routing

2   Information Protocol (RIP).

1   23.   The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the version of the RIP is one of

2   Version 1 or Version 2.

1   24.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the version of the RIP of each

2   network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.

1   25.   The apparatus of claim 23 further comprising configuring the link such

2   that the RIP on both of the first and second network devices is Version 2.

1   26.   The apparatus of claim 23 further comprising configuring the link such

that the RIP Version 2 on both of the first and second network devices is triggered.